

## Journals of semiotics in the world

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**Abstract:** Hereby we provide a list of all semiotic journals currently published in the world, which includes 53 titles. From among these, 42 are printed on paper (among them six international journals on general semiotics, 16 journals specializing in some branch of semiotics, and 20 regional semiotics journals), while 11 appear only as electronic publications. All in all, these journals publish articles in 16 languages.

**Keywords:** history of semiotics, semiotic periodicals

Since the beginning of the 1960s, semiotics has become institutionally established along a wide spectrum – it has its specialized journals, book series, associations and societies, academic positions, lecture courses, research groups and schools. Thus, it has also acquired an identity and history of its own. The number of periodicals in semiotics during the last 50 years has been by no means small (see the review in Withalm 2004<sup>1</sup>), but, as common to any branch of research, many of the journals have not lasted for long. At this point we have set ourselves the task of compiling a list of journals of semiotics published currently.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See also a brief list in Klinkenberg 1996: 438–440; Nöth 2000: v–vi; Voigt 2008: 284–286.

<sup>2</sup> Thus the list does not include, for instance, the journal *European Journal for Semiotic Studies* (established in 1989), which does not appear any more, or the *International Journal of Applied Semiotics* which was published from 1999 to 2007, or the electronic journal *Semiotics, Evolution, Energy, Development (SEED)* which appeared from 2001 to 2007. In some cases it might happen, however, that the publication will reappear again after a break in publication. We did not include *Acta Semiotica Fennica* (established in 1992) either, for it is rather a book series than a journal proper.

It is not always clear which journals can be identified as journals of semiotics, as the number of periodicals that publish texts in the field of semiotic studies is very large.<sup>3</sup> We use a strict approach, including only the journals which explicitly self-identify themselves as concerned with semiotics.<sup>4</sup> Some periodicals are not published very regularly, thus the distinction between a journal and an aperiodic bulletin need not be very clear.<sup>5</sup>

The list is divided into four categories: (A) international journals of semiotics in general; (B) international journals of some special field of semiotics; (C) regional journals of semiotics; and (D) electronic journals of semiotics. The journals are listed in chronological order of their establishment. In case of each journal, the year of establishment is indicated. We have also added information about the publisher and the languages in which the articles are published.

## A. International journals on general semiotics

*Sign Systems Studies* (1964) [University of Tartu Press; English, some papers in Russian]<sup>6</sup>  
*Semiotica* – an official journal of the International Association for Semiotic Studies (1969) [De Gruyter Mouton; English, some papers in French]  
*Kodikas/Code – Ars Semeiotica* – an international journal of semiotics (1977) [Gunter Narr Verlag; English, French, and German]  
*Signata – Annales des sémiotiques / Annals of semiotics* (2010) [Presses Universitaires de Liège; French and English]  
*International Journal of Signs and Semiotic Systems* (2011) [IGI Publishing; an official publication of the Information Resources Management Association; English]  
*Signs and Society* (2013) [University of Chicago Press; English]

## B. International journals in some special fields of semiotics

*Cahiers Ferdinand de Saussure* – Revue de linguistique générale, Publiée par le Cercle Ferdinand de Saussure (1941) [Genève, Librairie Droz S. A.; mostly French, some articles in English, German, or Italian]<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See the lists in Eschbach, Rader 1976: v–xxiii, and Eschbach et al. 1986: 11–31, which include over 600 journals.

<sup>4</sup> Thus we did not include for this reason the journal *Symbolic Interaction* – a journal of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (established 1977), or *Metaphor and Symbol* (formerly *Metaphor and Symbolic Activity*, established in 1986).

<sup>5</sup> For instance, *Almen Semiotik*, *Semiotiche*, and *Cognitive Semiotics*. Some publications seem rather more resemble book series, for instance *Semen* (Revue de sémiolinguistique des textes et discours, Université de Franche-Comté), or *Visible* (Revue de sémiotique visuelle; established in 2005).

<sup>6</sup> See Kull, Maran 2012.

<sup>7</sup> The journal does not identify itself as a journal of semiotics; however, as it concerns a major classic of semiotics, it can be included here.

- Transactions of the Charles Peirce Society* – A quarterly journal in American philosophy (1965) [Charles S. Peirce Society; English]<sup>8</sup>
- Degrés – revue de synthèse à orientation sémiologique* (1973) [Bruxelles, ASBL Degrés; French and English]<sup>9</sup>
- Sémiotique et Bible* (1975) [Université Catholique de Lyon; French]
- Carte Semiotiche* (1984) [journal of semiotics and theory of image; Centro di Semiotica e Teoria dell'Immagine Omar Calabrese; Italian, English, and French]
- Discurso – Revista Internacional de Semiótica y Teoría Literaria* (1987) [Asociación Andaluza de Semiótica; Spanish]
- International Journal for the Semiotics of Law / Revue Internationale de Sémiotique Juridique* (1987) [Springer; English and French]
- Social Semiotics* (1991) [Routledge/Taylor & Francis; English]
- Cybernetics and Human Knowing* – A journal of second order cybernetics, autopoiesis and cyber-semiotics (1992) [Imprint Academic; English]
- Applied Semiotics / Semiotique Appliquée* (1996) [journal devoted to literary semiotic research; Lulu Press; University of Toronto at Mississauga; English and French]
- Visio – International Journal for Visual Semiotics* (1996) [Laval University, Diffusion Publishing; English and French]
- Variaciones Borges* – Journal of philosophy, semiotics and literature (1996) [The University of Pittsburgh; Spanish, English, and French]
- Interdisciplinary Journal for Germanic Linguistics and Semiotic Analysis* (1996) [University of California Berkeley; English]
- Cognitive Semiotics* (2007), or *The Journal of Cognitive Semiotics*. Multidisciplinary journal on meaning and mind. [Vol. 4(1) of the latter was launched in August 2012. It seems to be the follower of *Cognitive Semiotics*; however, it has been published only as an e-journal up to now; English]
- Biosemiotics* (2008) [Springer; English]
- International Journal of Marketing Semiotics* (2012) [English]

## C. Regional journals on any field of semiotics

- Versus: Quaderni di studi semiotici* (1971) [Bompiani; Italian, French, and English]
- Significação – Revista Brasileira de Semiótica* (1973) [Annablume; Portuguese]
- Zeitschrift für Semiotik* (1979) [the journal of the German Semiotic Society, in cooperation with Austrian and Swiss semiotic societies; German]
- Recherches sémiotiques / Semiotic Inquiry* (1980) [The official publication of the Canadian Semiotics Association; English and French]<sup>10</sup>
- The American Journal of Semiotics* (1981) [The Journal of the Semiotic Society of America; English]
- Semiotopos* (1981) [initially *Semiotic Studies*, since 2003 *Series Semiotopos*; Japanese Association of Semiotic Studies; Japanese]

<sup>8</sup> Same as previous footnote.

<sup>9</sup> About this journal, see Helbo 1987.

<sup>10</sup> The most recent issue dates from 2009.

- Nouveaux Actes Sémiotiques* (1989) [Presses universitaires de Limoges; French]<sup>11</sup>
- Szemiotikai szövegtan – Semiotic Textology* (1990) [Department of Hungarian Language and Linguistics at the Juhász Gyula Teacher Training College in Szeged; Hungarian and English]
- Almen Semiotik* (1990) [Aarhus Universitetsforlag; Danish and English]
- Signa – Revista de la Asociación Española de Semiótica* (1992) [Institute of Literary Semiotics, Theatre and New Technologies at the National University of Distance Education (Madrid); Spanish]
- Lexia* (1994) [Semiotic journal of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Communication of the University of Torino; English, Italian, French, and Spanish]
- deSignis* (1999) [Federación Latinoamericana de Semiótica; Spanish]
- Respectus Philologicus* (1999) [Vilnius University and Jan Kochanowski University; English, Lithuanian, Polish, and Russian]<sup>12</sup>
- Kpumuka u cemuomuka* [Kritika i semiotika] (2000) [University of Novosibirsk, Department of Semiotics and Discourse Analysis; Russian]
- Semikolon – Tidsskrift for Idéhistorie, Semiotik og Filosofi* (2000) [University of Aarhus; Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, and English]
- Galáxia. Revista do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Comunicação e Semiótica* (2001) [formerly *Face: Revista de Semiótica e Comunicação* (1998)] [Portuguese]
- Acta Semiotica Estica* (2001) [Estonian Semiotics Association, University of Tartu Press; Estonian]
- Semiotiche* (2003) [Ananke edizioni; Italian]
- Chinese Semiotic Studies* (2009) [Nanjing Normal University Press; English]
- Signs and Media* (2009) [Sichuan University Press; Chinese]

## D. Electronic journals on semiotics<sup>13</sup>

- AdVersuS – Revista de Semiótica* (1990; online from 2004) [Istituto Italo-argentino di Ricerca Sociale (IIRS); Spanish, Italian, French and Portuguese]
- Semiotic Review* (formerly *The Semiotic Review of Books* (1990), starting from 2013 only online with a new name) [Department of Sociology, Lakehead University; English]
- texto!* (1996) [Institut Ferdinand de Saussure; French, English, and Spanish]
- Ocula – Occhio semiotico sui media/Semiotic Eye on Media* (2000) [Italian]
- Entretextos – Revista Electrónica Semestral de Estudios Semióticos* (2003) [University of Granada; Spanish]
- SemiotiX – A global information bulletin* (2004) [The Semioticon; English]

<sup>11</sup> Its predecessor was *Actes sémiotiques*, the bulletin of Greimas' seminar published from 1977 to 1987.

<sup>12</sup> This journal describes itself as a philological periodical dealing with the problems of grammar, semiotics and semantics.

<sup>13</sup> Since the web journal format may have many forms, we are using the term in a narrow sense for the purposes of this article. There exist several internet publications that may also belong to this category, for instance *Fuhaoxue Dongtai* (*Bulletin of Semiotics*), published monthly by the Institute of Semiotics and Media Studies, Sichuan University (in Chinese).

*Hortus Semioticus* (2006) [University of Tartu, Estonia; Estonian and English]

*E/C – Rivista dell'Associazione Italiana di studi semiotici* (2007; initially printed, now only online) [Italian]

*Signs – International Journal of Semiotics* (2007) [Royal School of Library and Information Science, Denmark; English]

*The Public Journal of Semiotics* (2007) [Toronto; English]

*Cygne Noir – Revue d'exploration sémiotique* (2013) [Montréal; French]

## Conclusions

Thus, we have found altogether 53 semiotic journals currently published in the world. From these, 11 are published only electronically.

Leaving out *Cahiers Ferdinand de Saussure* and *Transactions of the Charles Peirce Society* which do not identify themselves directly as semiotic journals, we have 40 currently published journals of semiotics that appear as hard copies. From among these, two were established in the 1960s, six in the 1970s, seven in the 1980s, 12 in the 1990s, and 13 since the year 2000. This distribution seems to reflect a new momentum in publishing becoming apparent in the 1990s.

The languages used for publication of articles in the semiotic journals are the following (for each language, we give the number of journals from all 53 journals listed): English 35, French 18, Spanish 8, Italian 8, German 3, Portuguese 3, Russian 3, Danish 2, Estonian 2, Chinese 1, Hungarian 1, Japanese 1, Lithuanian 1, Norwegian 1, Polish 1, Swedish 1.

It is notable that some journals, such as *Semikolon*, *Hortus Semioticus*, and *Cygne Noir*, have been established and are edited by students.

Taking into account the overall numbers of academic periodicals in the world, the share of semiotic journals is certainly not high. However, for semiotics itself, the situation looks quite stable and provides a platform that can ensure the continuation and development of our field.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> An earlier version of this list was published in Kull, Maran 2012. We thank Claudio Rodríguez, Remo Gramigna, Yongxiang Wang and Hisashi Muroi for their help in finding information about some journals. The study has been supported by the project IUT2-44 and by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund (CECT, Estonia). We appreciate receiving information about any periodicals that are missing from the list.

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## Семиотические журналы в мире

Приводится список всех семиотических журналов, которые в настоящее время публикуются в мире. Список содержит 53 названия, среди которых 42 печатных (из них шесть международных журналов по общей семиотике, 16 специализирующихся в какой-либо отрасли и 20 региональных журналов), а 11 журналов выходят только в электронном виде. В совокупности во всех журналах по семиотике печатаются статьи на 16 языках.

## Maaailma semiootikaajakirjad

Esitame nimekirja kõigist käesoleval ajal maailmas ilmuvatest semiootikaajakirjadest, millesse kuulub 53 nimetust. Neist 42 on paberajakirjad (sealhulgas 6 üldist rahvusvahelist semiootikaajakirja, 16 mõnele semiootikavaldkonnale spetsialiseerunud ajakirja ning 20 piirkondlikku semiootikaajakirja) ning 11 ilmuvad üksnes elektrooniliselt. Neis ajakirjades avaldatakse artikleid ühtekokku kuueteistkümmes keeles.